

Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

12 September 2005

National Ocean Service

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service

Last bulletin: September 12, 2005

Note: This is an addendum to Bulletin #77 in order to illustrate the imagery in the Florida Panhandle.

Conditions: A harmful algal bloom has been identified from northern Pinellas to northern Collier County. Moderate to high impacts are possible through Wednesday, with moderate impacts Thursday. A harmful algal bloom has been identified in Franklin, Taylor, and Dixie Counties. Very low to low impacts are possible in Franklin County through Thursday, and moderate impacts are possible in Taylor and Dixie Counties. Dead fish smell, while unpleasant, does not produce the same respiratory irritation as red tide.

Analysis: The ongoing bloom persists along the coast of Southwest Florida, and has moved south into offshore Collier County. Dead fish have been reported in Pinellas, Manatee, Lee, and Collier Counties in the past few days. Medium to high concentrations of *K. brevis* persist from Clearwater to Sanibel onshore, with low counts as far south as Fort Myers offshore. Chlorophyll levels are very high ($>20\mu\text{g/L}$) along coast from Panama City to Naples, with patches $>40\mu\text{g/L}$ near Bradenton, Sanibel, and Cape San Blas. Northwestern winds through Wednesday may increase impacts along the beach. Reports of discolored water are likely. Continued southern transport of the bloom is expected.

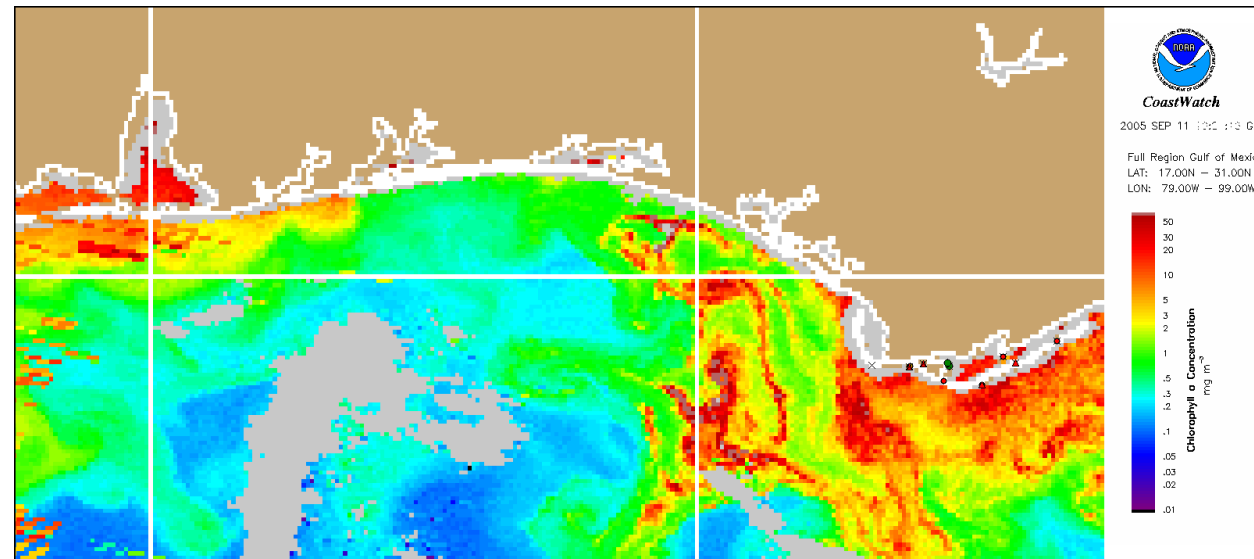
The bloom persists along the Florida panhandle, from Gulf County to Dixie County, and has moved further onshore. Medium concentrations of *K. brevis* have been reported in Franklin County (September 8), and high concentrations were found offshore Taylor and Dixie Counties (August 23). Fish kills have been reported in Bay, Gulf, Franklin, and Wakulla counties, as well as respiratory irritation at St. Georges Island,

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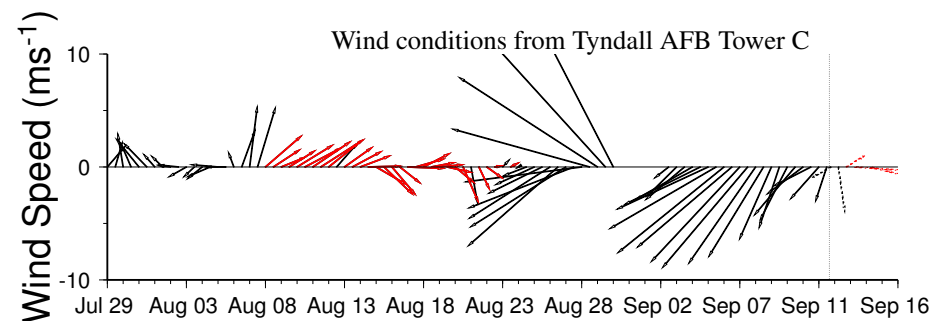
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and offshore St. Vincent Island. Four dolphin mortalities were reported near St. Georges Island, and shellfish beds in Apalachicola have been closed. Sampling is recommended throughout the area, both alongshore and offshore, particularly offshore south of Cape San Blas near $29^{\circ}29'N$ $85^{\circ}21'W$, where chlorophyll levels of approximately $60\mu\text{g/L}$ have been detected via satellite. Patchy regions of high chlorophyll ($20\text{--}40\mu\text{g/L}$) have also been detected west and southwest of Cape San Blas. Sampling is recommended. Offshore sampling is also recommended for the Big Bend area. Northwesterly and westerly winds through Thursday are likely to intensify beach impacts in Taylor and Dixie County. The bloom is likely to maintain its location onshore over the next week, and may intensify.

-Stolz and Fisher

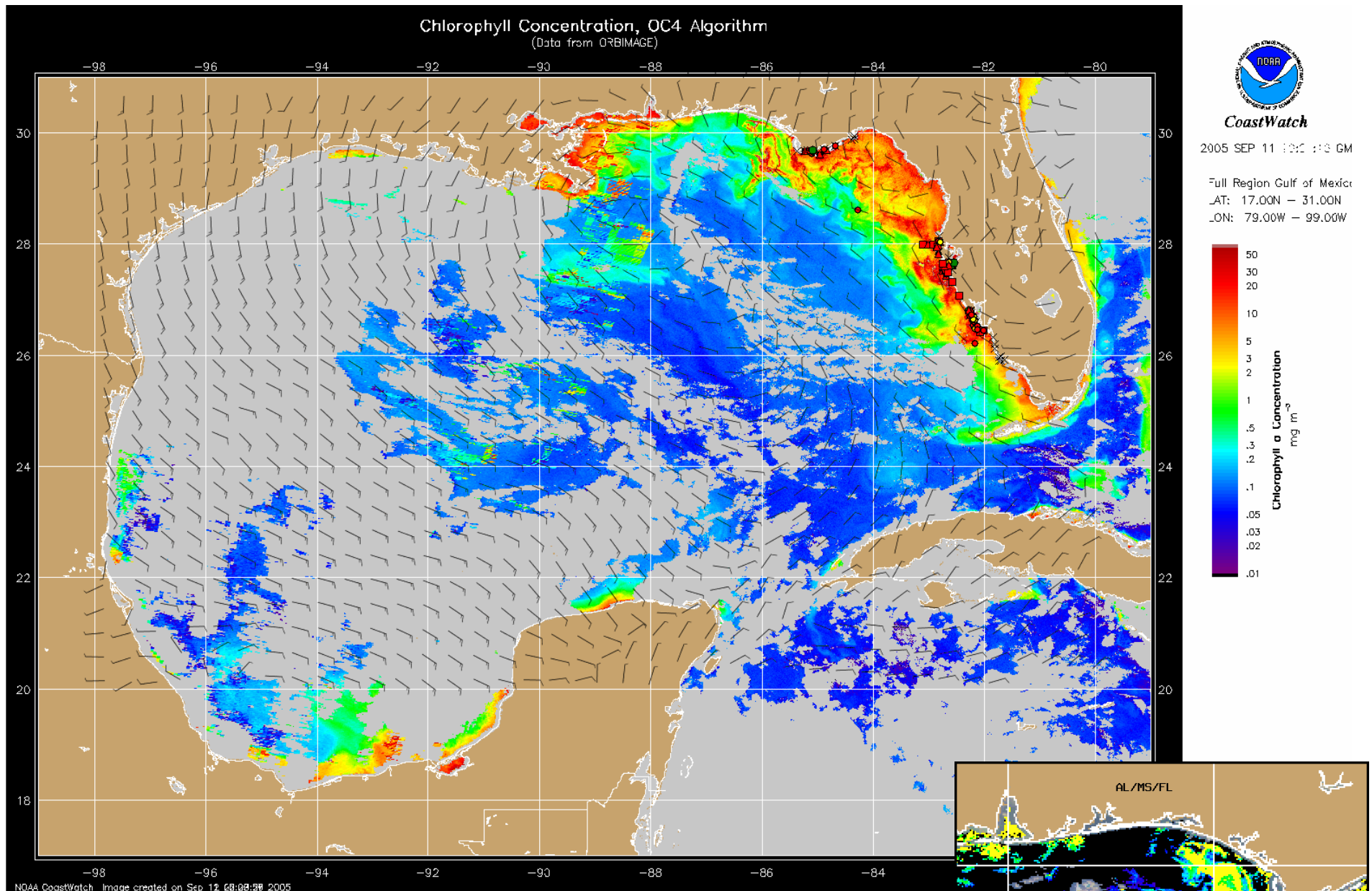


Chlorophyll concentration from satellite with HAB areas shown by red polygon(s).



Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from measurements made on buoys. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.

SW Florida: Northwestern winds through Wednesday at 10 knots (5 m/s), becoming northerly Wednesday night and Thursday. Florida Panhandle: Northwestern winds through Tuesday at 10 knots (5 m/s) becoming westerly Tuesday night through Thursday.



Chlorophyll concentration from satellite and forecast winds for September 13, 2005 06Z with cell concentration sampling data from September 9, 2005 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red diamonds (low b), red circles (low a), orange circles (very low b), yellow circles (very low a), green circles (present), and black "X" (not present).

Blooms shown in red (see p. 1 analysis)

